

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2023

PRESENT:

MEMBER	JAN 4	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 5	MAY 3	JUN 7	AUG 2	SEP 6	OCT 4	NOV 1
Mr. Huelsebusch, Chair	X		X	X	X					
Ms. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X					
Mr. Bola	X	X	X	X	X					
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X		X	X					
Mr. John	X	X	X	X	X					
Dr. Kelly					X					
Mr. Mueller	X	X		X						
Mr. Orlandi		X			X					
Ms. Owen	X		X	X	X					
Mr. Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X	X		X	X					
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X	X	X					

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Brian Skowronek, Charles Skee, Robert Becker

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** nothing to report
- 2) **Event Updates:** nothing to report
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the May 21st walk was posted on the Township website and will be held on South Branch Rail Trail, Woodfern Section in Neshanic. June's walk is tentatively scheduled on the River Trail.
- 4) **Trails:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that individual trails will be highlighted weekly on the Township Facebook page. Emanuel Bola stated that the first trail will be Pickell Park Trail.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Emanuel Bola made a motion to approve the April minutes, seconded by Julia Allen, all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that Readington sold the easement on the Saum's property to Hunterdon County and the property will be auctioned on May 10. Chair Huelsebusch stated that Hunterdon Land Trust will be publishing an article on the Saum's property.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** nothing to report.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** Neil Hendrickson talked about the recent Earth Day events held in Readington Schools. Neil updated the board on the recent Tree Give-Away and stated that it was a great success with over 1,900 trees distributed. Neil thanked all the volunteers for their work which included local Boy Scouts and CERT. Neil presented the new Environmental Commission logo which was created by a local student.
- 4) **WaterWatch Updates:** Mario Orlandi talked about the recent stream clean-up which was held in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters. Mario stated that this year, different from past years, volunteer crews were able to focus on smaller streams.
- 5) **Township Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that Ryan Dunn was appointed Chair of Ag Advisory Board. Ryan Dunn stated that he looks forward to collaborating with Open Space.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen stated that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 30. Anne stated that she spoke with Public Works Director, Ron Christy, and discussed updating some of the dilapidated kiosks.
- 2) **Stewardship:** nothing discussed.
- 3) **Volunteer Sessions:** nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Highlands:** Chair Huelsebusch presented a portion of the video from the May 1st Township Committee meeting discussing the eligibility of Federal Highlands program grants available. Dr. Kelly made a motion to recommend to the Township Committee to seek eligibility to apply for the Federal Highlands Grant program, seconded by Mario Orlandi, all approved.
- 2) **Rockafellow's Mill / Raritan River:** Chair Huelsebusch presented a portion of the video from the May 1st Township Committee meeting discussing the acquisition/purchase of land along the Raritan River. Chair Huelsebusch stated that this acquisition would be

in cooperation with Raritan Township and that the Township is currently in contract for the property.

- 3) **Tree Planting Grant:** Robert Becker discussed the \$250,000 NJ State Forestry Grant recently awarded to Readington. The board discussed various planting locations, seedling sizes, soliciting volunteers, and outreach to the community. The board discussed Holland Brook area as a first priority, however, further discussion will be held at the next OSAB meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Brian Skowronek stated that he helps with the trails sub-committee and was happy to attend tonight's meeting. Charles Skee stated that upon recommendation, he is attending tonight's meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Julia Allen stated that sensitivity should be considered when speaking with landowners. Neil Hendrickson stated that Township resident and Rutgers Professor in Environmental & Water Chemistry, Dr. Kathleen Dougherty, attended the recent Environmental Commission meeting. Neil stated Dr. Dougherty is a Girl Scout Leader and they discussed future volunteer opportunities. Emanuel Bola stated that Recreation Commission received a grant to conduct a site plan at Cornhuskers Park. Emanuel also reminded the board of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and family event afterwards in Pickell Park.

ADJOURN: Anne Owen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emanuel Bola, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter